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Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Identical letters dated 24 March 2014 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Observer Mission of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

We are at a critical stage in the resumed Palestinian-Israeli peace process. Although serious efforts are being exerted internationally, regionally and by the Palestinian leadership to advance the process, Israel, the occupying Power, persists in bad faith, in both word and deed, aggravating the volatile situation on the ground and threatening the viability of the process. Public confidence in and support for the negotiations, as well as the credibility of the process itself, are being dramatically eroded by incessant Israeli violations against the Palestinian people. Indeed, such illegal Israeli actions appear deliberately intended to provoke the Palestinian people, undermine the Palestinian leadership and destabilize the situation, with potentially far-reaching negative consequences.

On Saturday 22 March 2014, the Israeli occupying forces perpetrated another three extrajudicial killings. In a violent, pre-dawn military raid on the Jenin refugee camp, occupying forces killed three Palestinian men. Although claiming they were undertaking an "arrest operation", the occupying forces used lethal force, killing Hamza Abu Al-Haija, age 22, Mahmoud Abu Zeina, age 17, and Yazan Jabarin, age 22, injuring at least 10 other Palestinian civilians, and causing widespread fear and anger throughout the camp, which has been brutally targeted by the occupation in the past, including in April 2002, when occupying forces brutally massacred at least 55 Palestinians in the camp. In this regard, we recall that the wilful killing of civilians by the occupying Power amounts to war crimes under international humanitarian law, particularly article 147 of the Fourth Geneva Convention regarding grave breaches.

In recent days, dozens of Palestinian civilians have also been injured by the Israeli occupying forces in military raids in the Aida refugee camp, north of Bethlehem, and in the village of Silwad, north of Ramallah. Civilians also continue to be the victims of vicious Israeli settler violence. In the recent period, this has

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included, inter alia, an attack by a gang of settlers on two Palestinian children, both 11 years old, near the village of Beit Furik, east of Nablus, on 20 March; an attack by settlers on Palestinian farmers working in their fields near the village of Burin, south of Nablus, on 23 March; and the killing of a 70-year old Palestinian man, Saleh Malihat, who was run over by a settler on 2 March near the city of Ramallah. We recall here the obligations of the occupying Power, in accordance with the Fourth Geneva Convention, to ensure the protection of the civilian population under its occupation and reiterate our calls for an end to such brutality against the Palestinian people.

Further inflaming tensions, Israel has continued unabated with its illegal and destructive settlement campaign throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. In addition to the announcements of the construction of the more than 1,000 settlement units referred to in our letter of 20 March 2014 (A/ES-10/621-S/2014/205), the Israeli Government has approved plans for the advancement of more than 2,200 other units in six Israeli settlements, including in the settlements of "Beit El" and "Ariel", deep in the West Bank. These actions are being undertaken in direct and grave breach of international law, which deems all such colonization activities to be illegal, and in total contradiction to the objectives of the peace process, reaffirming Israel's bad faith and intentions in this regard.

If implemented, such illegal measures would further fragment the contiguity of the Occupied State of Palestine, seriously jeopardizing the viability of the two-State solution based on the pre-1967 borders and sabotaging the small window of opportunity before us for achieving a final, just and peaceful solution to this conflict. We once again draw the international community's attention to the dangers of this situation and call for the exertion of all efforts to salvage the prospects for peace, including by the Security Council according to its duty under the Charter of the United Nations for the maintenance of international peace and security.

The international community must unequivocally demand that Israel, the occupying Power, cease all of its illegal actions against the Palestinian people. Israel must be compelled to abide by its obligations under international law, without exception, and by its commitments in the peace process, the terms of reference of which have been repeatedly reaffirmed and endorsed by the international community. Continued Israeli provocations and aggression can only further destabilize the situation on the ground, negating current peace efforts, with perilous ramifications. We thus reiterate our call at this critical time for urgent efforts to de-escalate tensions, to responsibly support the political process, and to salvage the chances for realizing peace.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 490 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 20 March 2014 (A/ES-10/621-S/2014/205) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Feda **Abdelhady-Nasser**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Identical letters dated 9 April 2014 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I draw your urgent attention to the dangerously rising tensions in Occupied East Jerusalem. The illegal actions and constant provocations and incitement by Israel, the occupying Power, including in particular by right-wing Israeli Government officials, extremist settlers and religious zealots, against the Palestinian people, their land and their holy places are exacerbating already-high tensions and religious sensitivities. Such actions risk further destabilization of the situation at a critical and defining moment in the political process, in which serious efforts are being exerted, including by the United States of America and other Quartet members and the League of Arab States, to salvage any remaining hope to achieve a just, lasting solution.

On Monday 7 April 2014, in yet another act of incitement and attempt to breach the sanctity of Haram al-Sharif, right-wing Deputy Speaker of the Israeli Knesset and member of the Prime Minister's party, Moshe Feiglin, again entered Haram al-Sharif under heavily armed Israeli military escort with more than 50 extremist settlers. As noted in our letters of 20 and 25 February 2014 (A/ES-10/616-S/2014/118 and A/ES-10/617-S/2014/128, respectively), Feiglin entered this holy compound on 19 February, escorted by Israeli police and declaring that "Al-Aqsa Mosque belongs to the Jews", causing anger and raising tensions among the Palestinian population. In this latest incident of provocation, while Mr. Feiglin and the settlers were present in the Al-Aqsa compound, the occupying forces imposed restrictions on the entry of Palestinian worshippers to the area. Israeli occupying forces stopped Palestinian worshippers at the main entrances of the mosque and detained them until Mr. Feiglin and the settlers left.

Such provocative incidents have intensified in both frequency and aggressiveness in the recent period, aggravating sensitivities and the fragile situation on the ground. Here it should be noted that, according to the Palestinian

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non-governmental organization Wadi Hilweh Information Center — Silwan, which documents Israeli violations in the holy city, a total of about 1,250 Jewish settlers forced their way into the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound last month alone. Equally disconcerting, the Internal Affairs and Environment Committee in the Israeli Knesset convened on 7 April to further discuss a resolution for "allowing" Jewish prayers in the Al-Aqsa courtyard. Such debates will not only provoke the already inflamed political climate but completely disregard the sensitive nature of Al-Aqsa Mosque, the first qiblah and the third holiest site in Islam, which remains under the supervision of the Islamic Waqf and custodianship of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and the long-standing status quo in this regard.

Moreover, we must reiterate at this critical juncture that all such illegal Israeli actions at Haram al-Sharif and throughout the rest of Occupied East Jerusalem are in violation of the numerous relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions calling for a cessation of all Israeli policies and measures aimed at altering the character, legal status and demography of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and for respect by Israel, the occupying Power, of its obligations under international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention, which prohibits such actions.

The State of Palestine believes that all such acts of incitement at holy sites in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as acts of the ongoing, deliberate provocations against the Palestinian people by the occupying Power, whether they be by the Government of Israel, its occupying forces or its illegal settlers, warrant serious and immediate attention by the international community, including by the Security Council, in line with its primary Charter duty for the maintenance of international peace and security. It is clear that such provocations and incitement are clearly aimed at illegally and forcibly further entrenching Israeli control over Haram al-Sharif in Occupied East Jerusalem and they must be rejected unequivocally.

Furthermore, we must draw attention to Israel's continued pursuit of its reckless and illegal settlement enterprise, which, in addition to the unabated construction of settlements, includes the destruction and confiscation of Palestinian lands and properties, as well as the forced displacement of Palestinian families. The persistence of such illegal actions sabotaged the latest round of peace talks and continues to threaten to physically destroy the possibility of the two-State solution based on the pre-1967 borders. Last week, as the United States Secretary of State, John Kerry, was shuttling between the two sides to address the crisis in the negotiations owing to Israel's reneging on the prisoner release, the Israeli Minister of Housing and Construction, Uri Ariel, himself a settler, signed tenders for 708 new settlement units in the so-called settlement of "Gilo" in Occupied East Jerusalem. This flagrant, deliberate act of provocation only served to further inflame the situation and to reaffirm Israel's bad faith in the peace process.

We call on the international community to act with urgency and responsibility to ensure the de-escalation of this perilous situation in the Occupied State of Palestine and to salvage the prospects for the realization of a peaceful, negotiated solution. Pressure must be brought to bear to bring a halt to the occupying Power's violations of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, as well as its provocations and incitement against the Palestinian people and their holy sites, including in Occupied East Jerusalem. The international community, if truly

interested in peace and saving the two-State solution, must do all that is possible to support a credible, substantive peace process, and this requires a clear call on Israel to commit to the path of peace on the basis of international law and relevant United Nations resolutions and in accordance with the two-State solution based on the long-standing terms of reference. For peace to truly have a chance, this is the time for the international community, and foremost the Security Council, to act collectively to hold Israel accountable for its violations and crimes and reject its empty pretexts, deception and disdain for international law.

The present letter is in follow-up to our previous 491 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 24 March 2014 (A/ES-10/622-S/2014/214) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine
to the United Nations

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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Identical letters dated 16 April 2014 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I write to you in follow-up to our numerous previous letters regarding the illegal policies and constant provocations and incitement by Israel, the occupying Power, and its extremist settlers and religious zealots against the Palestinian people, their land and their holy places. Over the past couple of weeks, such reckless actions and provocations have not only continued but have escalated, further exacerbating tensions and religious sensitivities between the two sides and risking a dangerous destabilization of the already fragile situation on the ground.

In this connection, I must inform you of the extremely worrying developments that occurred today, 16 April, at Haram al-Sharif (the Noble Sanctuary), which houses the holy Al-Aqsa Mosque and Qubbat Al-Sakhra (the Dome of the Rock) in Occupied East Jerusalem. In a clear act to aggravate and destabilize the situation on the ground, at 7.45 am (Palestine time), Israeli occupying forces unlocked the entrance of Al-Mughrabi Gate, which is the entrance to Haram al-Sharif, to allow for the entry of over 1,000 occupying forces, backed by so-called "border police" as well as "special units", including a sniper squad, to violently raid the mosque, provoking confrontations with the Muslim worshippers inside Al-Aqsa Mosque.

According to reports, Israeli occupying forces cordoned off the southern building of Al-Aqsa Mosque and fired a barrage of tear gas canisters, rubber-coated bullets and stun grenades towards the worshippers, who took refuge in the mosque. These violent attacks by the occupying forces caused fear and panic to spread among worshippers and provoked clashes. As a result, at least 25 Palestinians were injured, including some hospitalized for respiratory injuries due to the firing of tear gas canisters. In addition, dozens of Palestinians are said to have been detained by the occupying forces. Moreover, shortly after this provocation, the occupying Power deployed its occupying forces at all gates of the holy compound, where Palestinian men under the age of 50 were denied entry into the mosque at the time of prayers, further violating their human rights, particularly the right to worship.

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As noted in prior letters, Al-Aqsa Mosque, the first qiblah and the third holiest site in Islam, continues to be subjected to threats, incitement and provocations by Israeli occupying forces as well as extremist Israeli settlers and right-wing zealots, who have been calling for a "group pilgrimage" to Haram al-Sharif to mark the Jewish Passover holiday, now under way until 21 April. Moreover, the constant provocations by right-wing Israeli officials, to which we have also referred in past letters, has deepened concerns and fears among the Palestinian people and their leadership about the potential for further crisis in this most sensitive area.

We reiterate once more that all such illegal Israeli actions at Haram al-Sharif, and for that matter throughout the rest of Occupied East Jerusalem, are in violation of the numerous relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions calling for a cessation of all Israeli policies and measures aimed at altering the character, legal status and demography of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including of East Jerusalem, and for respect by Israel, the occupying Power, for its obligations under international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention, which prohibits such actions.

We believe that all such incitement and provocations against Muslim and Christian holy sites in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and against the Palestinian people, whether they be perpetrated by the Government of Israel, its occupying forces or its illegal settlers or religious zealots, warrant serious and immediate attention by the international community, including by the Security Council, in line with its primary duty under the Charter of the United Nations for the maintenance of international peace and security. We therefore reiterate our call upon the international community to act with urgency and responsibility to ensure the de-escalation of this perilous situation in Occupied East Jerusalem and to bring a halt to the occupying Power's violations of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law. These latest violent and dangerous measures taken at Haram al-Sharif are not only aimed at illegally and forcibly entrenching Israeli control over Haram al-Sharif and Occupied East Jerusalem but are also seriously jeopardizing the prospects for ever realizing a peaceful and just settlement on the basis of international law and relevant United Nations resolutions and in accordance with the two-State solution based on the pre-1967 borders.

The present letter is in follow-up to our previous 492 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 9 April 2014 (A/ES-10/623-S/2014/257), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations

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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Identical letters dated 21 April 2014 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to attach hereto a letter, dated 21 April 2014, addressed to you from Riad Malki, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Palestine, on the brutal and repressive actions by Israel, the occupying Power, against Palestinian Christians during Easter celebrations in Occupied East Jerusalem (see annex).

Please note that the annexed letter is a follow-up to our previous 493 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 16 April 2014 (A/ES-10/624-S/2014/280) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you wold arrange to have the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador, Permanent Observer of
the State of Palestine to the United Nations

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Annex to the identical letters dated 21 April 2014 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On this Easter Sunday, I write to convey to you the sad and frustrating circumstances under which Palestinians celebrated this holy occasion owing to the brutal and repressive actions of the Israeli occupation. Adding to the already volatile situation on the ground, Israeli occupation measures against Palestinian Christians and Muslims, especially in Occupied East Jerusalem, have sharply increased tensions and contributed to a deterioration of the situation, in addition to consecrating further a reality of repression of the basic right that all faithful are entitled to: freedom of worship.

As the international community exerts all possible efforts to ensure the resumption of the negotiation process, facilitated by the tireless efforts of United States Secretary of State John Kerry, Israel, the occupying Power, continues its oppression of the Palestinian people by means of all illegal policies, including violating their basic right of freedom of worship and access to holy places.

Instead of having free access to and inside the Old City in Jerusalem, tens of thousands of Palestinians were either denied a permit or barred and obstructed by the Israeli occupation from accessing the city during this holy week, while thousands of others were confronted by barricades, military checkpoints and humiliation. This year's Palm Sunday procession in Jerusalem was overshadowed by the significant absence of the majority of Palestinian Christians, including Palestinians from Gaza, who were denied access to Jerusalem on this important day. This prompted the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, Fuad Twal, to declare, "My children were not with me on Palm Sunday."

This unacccptable situation peaked on Saturday, when thousands of the faithful attempted to reach the Church of the Holy Sepulchre to attend the Holy Fire ceremony. Israeli soldiers and police erected dozens of barricades that barred or delayed them from reaching the church. This included the obstruction of foreign diplomats, including the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Robert Serry.

Such aggressive behaviour by the occupying Power once again marred Easter celebrations and the centuries-old rituals perfumed during this week. Moreover, Israel's actions constituted yet another attempt to undermine and deny the Christian identity and presence in the city, along with the other unlawful measures it continues to pursue that target the Palestinian, Arab and Muslim identity and character of the city. These illegal measures include, but are not limited to, settlement and wall construction, home demolitions, evictions of Palestinian families, revocation of residency rights, excavations, restrictions on access to the city and the continued closure of official Palestinian institutions.

On this occasion, we vociferously condemn all Israeli measures impeding access by the Palestinian people and other Christians and Muslims from around the world to the religious sites in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and violating their right to worship freely.

While Israel persists in denying the freedom of worship of the Palestinian people, it continues to facilitate the raids of Jewish extremists on sites across the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, Hebron, Bethlehem and Nablus. For example, just today, a group of Israeli extremists headed by Likud Deputy Head of the Knesset, Moshe Feiglin, and accompanied by Israeli occupying forces raided Al Aqsa Mosque compound. The occupying forces attacked Palestinian worshippers using excessive force, including firing stun grenades and rubber-coated steel bullets, causing injury to some, and detaining others.

The blatant disrespect for the mosque and its worshippers and the continued declarations of further raids on the holy site are tantamount to grave acts of incitement, which are stoking religious sensitivities and aggravating already elevated tensions. It is also alarming that Israeli officials continue to recklessly fuel these tensions by encouraging extremists to persist with such provocations, which threaten to ignite religious conflict, with far-reaching and dangerous consequences for the region and beyond.

I would like to conclude by underscoring the importance and urgency of international action to prevent this volatile situation from deteriorating further and to ensure the cessation of Israel's deliberate violation of Palestinians' right to the freedom of worship. The international community must be resolute in demanding an end to Israel's oppression and violation of the human rights of the Palestinian people and an end to all actions aimed at illegally and deliberately altering the demographic composition, character, identity and nature of the Palestinian land it has forcibly occupied since June 1967, including East Jerusalem. The international community must send an unequivocal message to Israel, the occupying Power, that such illegal actions and provocations must cease and will not be tolerated, and that Israel is wholly responsible for the negative impact and consequences of such actions on the ground and on the regional and international efforts to salvage the prospects for a peaceful solution.

(*Signed*) Riad **Malki**
Minister for Foreign Affairs